IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A hybrid power system comprising:

a fuel cell;

a battery;

a power delivery interface capable of being coupled to a ~~load device~~ portable computer;

a power multiplexer coupled to provide power through the power delivery interface from only one of the fuel cell or the battery at a time; ~~and~~

a controller operatively coupled to the fuel cell and battery to receive power readiness indications, operatively coupled to control the power multiplexer to select one of the fuel cell or the battery as a power source, and operatively coupled to the power delivery interface to signal the ~~load device~~ portable computer to reduce a load[[.]];

wherein the hybrid power system is packaged separately from the portable computer, and only connects with the portable computer using the power delivery interface.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ hybrid power system of claim 1 wherein the power multiplexer includes circuitry to charge the battery with the fuel cell.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ hybrid power system of claim 1 wherein the power delivery interface comprises:

at least one power conductor; and

at least one signal conductor to signal a state of the controller.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currrently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ hybrid power system of claim 1 wherein the battery comprises a Lithium-Ion battery.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ hybrid power system of claim 1 wherein the battery comprises a Nickel-Metal-Hydride battery.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~apparatus~~ hybrid power system of claim 1 further comprising a capacitor coupled in parallel with the battery.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a hybrid power system that includes a fuel cell, a battery, and power delivery interface to provide power to a portable computer, the hybrid power system being separately packaged from the portable computer, the method comprising:

checking if [[a]] the fuel cell is on;

starting the fuel cell;

determining if the fuel cell is ready to source power;

determining if [[a]] the battery is ready to source power;

if neither the fuel cell nor the battery is ready to source power, signaling ~~a load device~~ the portable computer through the power delivery interface to reduce a load; and

if the fuel cell is not ready to source power and the battery is ready to source power, setting a power multiplexer capable of providing power from one of the fuel cell or the battery at a time to provide power from the battery.

15. (Canceled)

16-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14 wherein setting a power multiplexer to provide power from the battery comprises providing power from a battery and capacitor combination.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 14 further comprising signaling ~~a load device~~ the portable computer to reduce a load if the fuel cell is not ready to source power and the battery becomes depleted.

20-29. (Canceled)